

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AF-10 EUR-12 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /080 W
-----019183 310737Z /13/64

R 300955Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4872
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANA 2565

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT (PARA 2)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, YE
SUBJECT: ABDAL ALIM AFFAIR: POSTSCRIPTS

REF: SANA 2485

1. INTERESTING POSTSCRIPT TO YARG HANDLING OF ABDAL ALIM AFFAIR IS THAT PRESIDENT GHASHMI APPARENTLY SPOKE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO PDRY PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAYAI ALI AND CLEARED WITH HIM IN ADVANCE USE OF YAR AIR FORCE AND GROUND FORCES IN HUIJARIYYA REGION. HE ALSO GOT ASSURANCES THAT PDRY WAS NOT RPT NOT ENCOURAGING OR ASSISTING ABDAL ALIM. YEMENIS OPENED "HOT LINE" BY SENDING PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVE ABDALLAH HUMRAN TO ADEN WITH LETTERS TO SALIM RUBAYAI ALI.

2. ANOTHER POSTSCRIPT WORTH ADDING TO EARLIER REPORTING ABOUT ABDAL ALIM AFFAIR IS ZAYDI NORTHERNERS SHRUG AND CITE ABDAL ALIM EPISODES TO THEIR LONG-HELD CONVICTION THAT SHAFEI SOUTHERNERS ARE NEITHER WISE, BRAVE NOR SMART. BY BREEDING AND ETHIC, LEADERSHIP BELONGS TO NORTH IN YEMEN, THEY SAY; SHAFEIS MAKE GOOD FARMERS,
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MERCHANTS AND SIMPLE SOLDIERS. SOUTHERNERS, STUNNED BY MURDERS OF HOSTAGES, SOME OF WHOM HAD THEIR THROATS SLIT, ARE REACTING WITH BITTERNESS AND WITH RAGE, NOT JUST AGAINST ABDALLAH ABDAL ALIM BUT AGAINST NORTHERN-LED YARG. I HAVE HEARD HALF A DOZEN SOPHISTICATED SOUTHERNERS, MERCHANTS OR OFFICIALS, ALL OPPONENTS OF ABDAL ALIM, INSIST THAT NORTHERN ARMY OFFICERS EXPECTED

AND EVEN PRECIPATED MURDEROUS ACTS OF ABDAL ALIM.
NORTHERNERS GAVE HIM OPPORTUNITIES TO COMMIT
ATROCITIES, SAY MEN LIKE ALI AL-BAHR, WHO LOST UNCLE
AND BROTHER. SOUTHERNERS SEE NO RPT NO LEADER WHO
MIGHT EMERGE FROM THEIR RANKS TO PREVENT SLOW, SKILL-
FUL SHIFT OF POWER TO NORTHERNERS IN POLITICAL AS WELL AS
MILITARY FIELD.

3. THIRD POSTSCRIPT MIGHT

BE THAT COMMITMENT OF LARGE
MILITARY FORCES AND RESULTING POLITICAL CLEAVAGES HAVE
STILL RPT SILL NOT BEEN ADDRESSED IN ANY WAY IN PUBLIC.
RADIO AND TV BROADCAST STATEMENTS BY ARAFAT AND DETAILS
ON KOLWEZI RESCUE OPERATIONS BUT NOTHING TO COUNTER
SURGING RUMORS AND FEARS ABOUT LOCAL SITUATION.

COMMENT: DEALINGS WITH SOUTH MIGHT BE SIGNIFICANT.
ALTHOUGH ABDAL ALIM BECAME ANATHEMA TO ADENIS AFTER
1973 WAR, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN STRONG TEMPTATIONS IN
SOME RADICAL QUARTERS TO EXPLOIT HIM AGAINST GHASHMI.
SALIM EMERGES, ONCE AGAIN, AS KIND OF MODERATE IN
SOUTH. IN THE YAR ITSELF, GHASHMI SEEMS TO HAVE MOVED
WITH SKILL AND RESTRAINT BUT HE SIMPLY CAN'T ESCAPE
DELEMNAS OF BEING NORTHERN SHAYKH AND WOODEN PUBLIC
FIGURE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, GENERAL STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANA02565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780229-1017
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978057/aaaaafsh.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f228ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANA 2485
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2723469
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ABDAL ALIM AFFAIR: POSTSCRIPTS
TAGS: PINT, YE, (ALIM, ABDAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f228ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014